

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus comprising:

an audio cancellation module, including:

an audio input for receiving an audio signal ~~from a microphone that~~

includes a speech signal and a plurality of different background noises;

at least two additional audio inputs for receiving at least two audio source signals, respectively, from independent audio sources that primarily do not include speech represented by said speech signal, both the at least two audio source signals contribute contributing to the plurality of different background noises of the audio signal input to the microphone from being and are within a proximity of the sensitivity range of the a microphone for capturing said speech signal and each respective audio input being arranged within a proximity of a respective audio source,

wherein the audio cancellation module being is operative to produce a speech signal by canceling cancel the at least two audio source signals from the audio signal that are received, substantially sequential, ~~by the microphone and each of the at least two additional respective audio inputs so as to leave a remainder of the audio signal received by the microphone that comprises primarily the speech signal; and~~

a speech recognizer for recognizing at least part of the speech signal.

2. (Currently amended) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

~~a controller for, in response to a spoken instruction from a user which is recognized by the speech recognizer, issuing at least one command message to a further~~

apparatus via a control communication network in response to a spoken instruction from a user that is recognized by the speech recognizer.

3. (Original) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller is operative to issue the at least one command message according to remote control messages associated with the further apparatus.

4. (Previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the two audio source signals is received via an audio communication network from an audio source unit that is external to the speech recognition apparatus.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speech recognition apparatus includes at least one audio input for receiving an external audio source signal from an audio source unit that is external to the speech recognition apparatus; the audio source signal from the audio source unit that is external to the speech recognition apparatus being received substantially for the purpose of canceling the external audio source signal from the microphone audio signal.

7. (Currently amended) A consumer electronics system comprising:

at least two independent audio source apparatuses;

an audio cancellation module, including:

an audio input for receiving an audio signal from a microphone that includes a speech signal and a plurality of different background noises; and

at least two additional audio inputs for receiving, respectively, independent audio source signals from respective ones of the audio source apparatuses, ~~the at least two of the independent audio source signals contribute contributing to the audio signal from the microphone by a proximity of the at least two audio source signals to within a sensitivity range of the microphone;~~

the audio cancellation module being operative to ~~produce a speech signal by~~ canceling ~~cancel~~ the at least two independent audio source signals from the audio signal received, ~~substantially sequential, from the microphone and each of the at least two additional respective audio inputs so as to eliminate the background noise and to leave a remainder of the audio signal received by the microphone that comprises primarily the speech signal; and~~

a speech recognizer for recognizing at least part of the speech signal that remains.

8. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a control unit for, in response to a spoken instruction from a user that is recognized by the speech recognizer, issuing at least one command message to an apparatus in the system via a communication network.

9. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one of the independent audio source signals is received via the communication network from the associated audio source apparatus.

10. (Currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the audio cancellation module is located in an apparatus of the system, where the apparatus includes at least one audio input for receiving an audio source signal from an audio source apparatus external to the apparatus; the audio signal being received substantially for the purpose of canceling this audio signal from the microphone audio signal.

11. (Currently amended) An audio cancellation module, comprising:
an audio input for receiving an audio signal from a microphone that includes a speech signal and a plurality of different background noises, said audio signal including an indication of a highest signal source from among said speech signal and each of said plurality of different background noises; and

at least two additional audio inputs for receiving audio source signals, respectively, from respective independent audio sources, ~~both~~ the at least two audio source signals contribute contributing to the plurality of different background noises mixed with included in the received audio signal detected by the microphone from the audio source signals being arranged within a proximity to a sensitivity range of the microphone receiving the audio signal;

the audio cancellation module being operative to produce a speech signal by canceling ~~the at least two audio source signals~~ from the audio signal received those

signals not indicated to be the highest signal source from the microphone and each of the
at least two additional respective audio inputs so as to leave a remainder of the audio
signal received by the microphone that comprises primarily the speech signal.